



PRESENTATION

INDIGENT DEFENSE DASHBOARDS

Presentation for Pure Justice 10.28.2021



HARRIS COUNTY VISION

We are working towards building a more dynamic, vibrant, and resilient community while being inclusive, equitable, and transparent in all that we do.



HARRIS COUNTY SAFETY & GOAL

The Harris County Safety and Justice Goal is to promote safe, healthy, thriving communities through restorative and evidence-based strategies that foster public trust, prevent violence and trauma, reduce racial and economic disparities, and minimize criminal justice system exposure where at all possible.



HARRIS COUNTY SAFETY & GOAL

Priority Outcomes

- 1) Reduce violent crime
- 2) Reduce unnecessary exposure to the criminal justice system
- 3) Support victims in dangerous situations
- 4) Lessen exposure to the juvenile justice system
- 5) Reduce racial and economic bias within the criminal justice system



JAD'S PURPOSE

The Justice Administration Department was created by Harris County Commissioners Court two years ago to be an independent research Department for Harris County working collaboratively with Commissioners Court and criminal justice stakeholders to help them fulfill the vision for the County, specifically by advancing innovative approaches to justice that are consistent with the Harris County justice and safety goal of the County.



JAD'S MISSION

The Justice Administration Department strives to facilitate meaningful improvements in the Harris County justice systems that ensure equity, safety, transparency, the use of best practices, and accountability so that Harris County residents can live in safe, healthy, and thriving communities.



JAD'S VISION, VALUES, APPROACH

Vision:

All Harris County residents live in vibrant, safe, healthy, and thriving communities through the advancement of innovative justice solutions.

Values:

- Equity
- Transparency
- Solutions based on based practices
- Safety
- Collaboration
- Innovation
- Independent Research
- Collective impact

Data Collection Approach:

Collect and analyze data to identify system trends, evaluate comparative best practices, and recommend policy solutions to County officials and departments.

INDIGENT DEFENSE

“[The assistance of counsel] is one of the safeguards of the Sixth Amendment deemed necessary to insure fundamental human rights of life and liberty.”

- Hugo L. Black-Gideon v. Wainwright

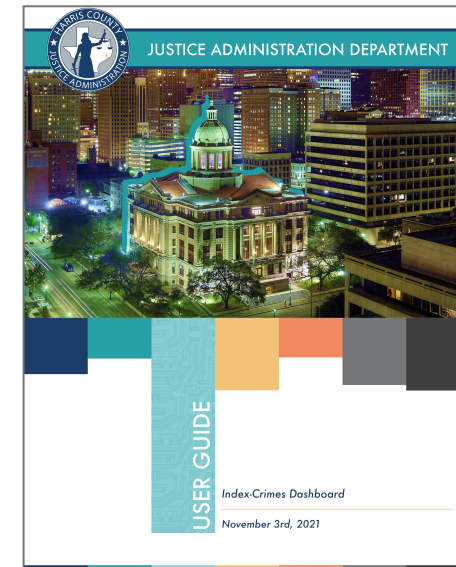
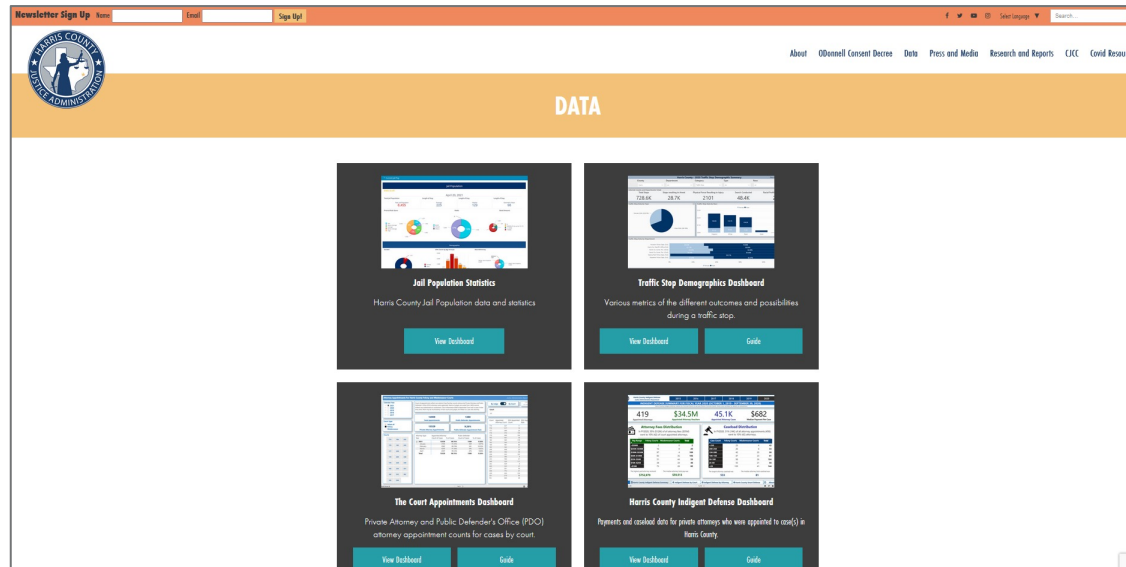
The Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution requires that, in all criminal prosecutions, the accused has the right to assistance of counsel for their defense. As a result, states must provide publicly-funded lawyers to defendants charged with jailable offenses who are unable to afford an attorney.

INDIGENT DEFENSE DASHBOARD REQUEST

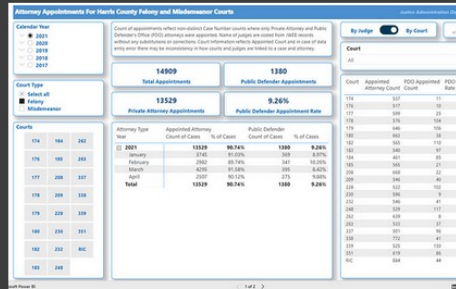
- Last June, the Harris County Commissioners Court passed a motion made by Commissioner Rodney Ellis charging JAD with developing an indigent defense dashboard.
- With the goal of this dashboard to enhance transparency and build public trust with Harris County court appointment practices.
- More specifically JAD was asked that the dashboard should include: attorney selection, attorney payments, attorney caseloads, appointment rates, type of counsel, use of experts and investigators, case outcomes, time to disposition, number of court settings, percent of cases resulting in alternative to incarceration, and percent of cases resulting in dismissal.
- For clarity and efficiency, JAD developed two separate dashboards to help showcase the requested amount of information in a clear and precise manner.
- The two dashboards includes are, number one – the Court Appointments Dashboard and number two – the Harris County Indigent Defense Dashboard.

JAD DATA DASHBOARDS

- The JAD Data Dashboards are available to the public through the JAD website: <https://jad.harriscountytexas.gov/Data>
- New dashboards are added periodically as new data and analysis is created.
- Visual how-to guides also accompany the dashboards.
- Previously published dashboards are updated as frequently as data is available with some being updated daily.



INDIGENT DEFENSE DASHBOARDS

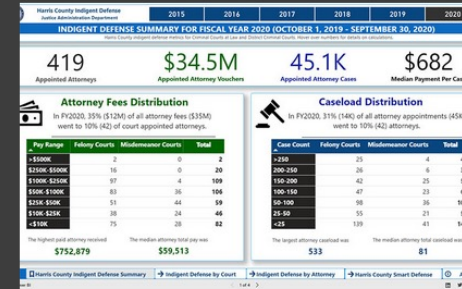


The Court Appointments Dashboard

Private Attorney and Public Defender's Office (PDO)
attorney appointment counts for cases by court.

[View Dashboard](#)

[Guide](#)



Harris County Indigent Defense Dashboard

Payments and caseload data for private attorneys who were appointed to case(s) in
Harris County.

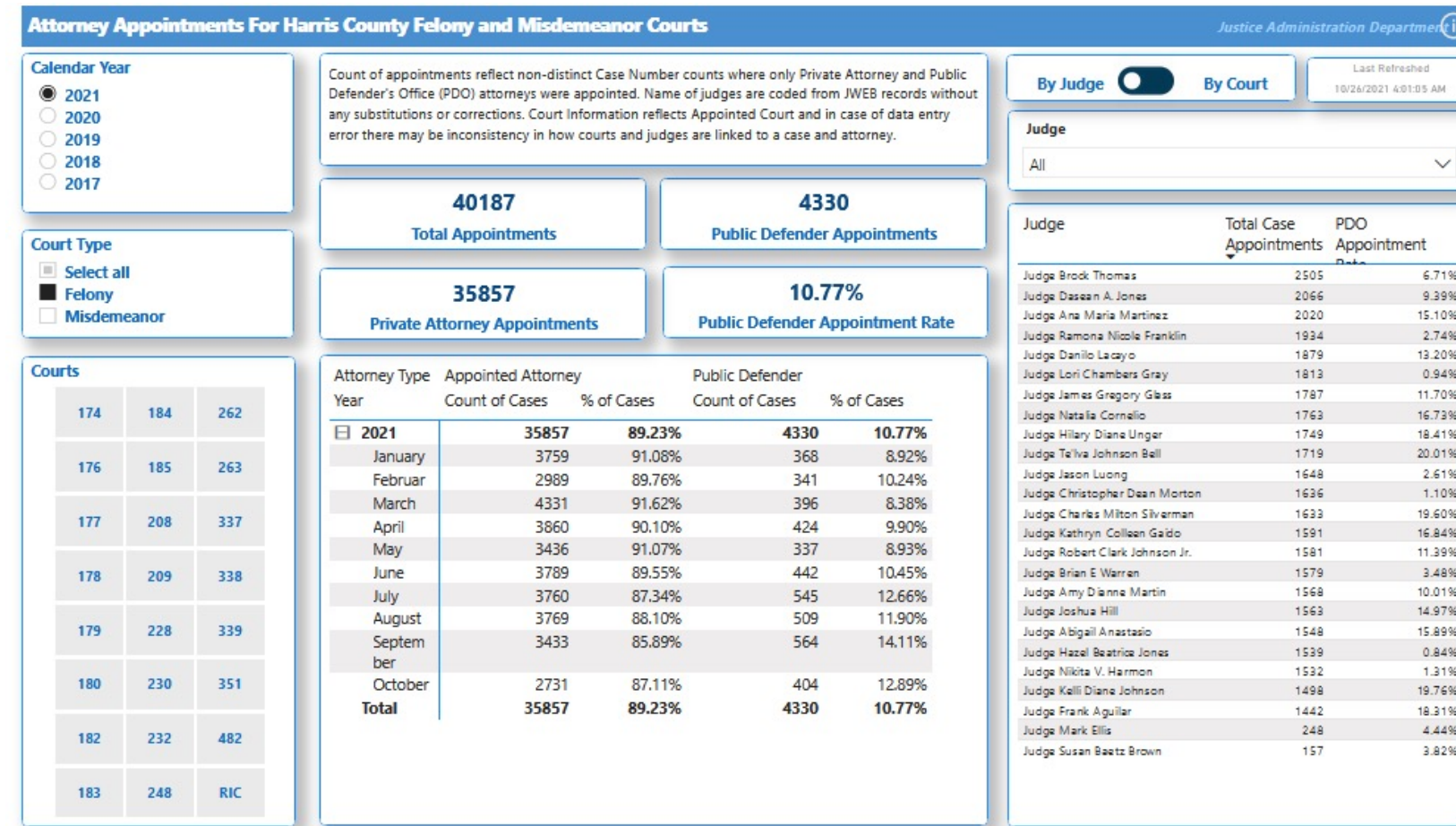
[View Dashboard](#)

[Guide](#)

| Year | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Cases Filed | 92134 | 95805 | 93577 | 90988 | 81372 |
| Total Appointments* | 36396 | 39109 | 40764 | 42378 | 40187 |

- The first two dashboards published by JAD focus on looking at Indigent Defense in Harris County
- A case can have multiple attorneys appointed as well as have a hired attorney present during across the lifetime of the case*

ATTORNEY APPOINTMENTS DASHBOARD



- The Court Appointments Dashboard was published to the JAD website in October 2020
- The dashboard provides a monthly view of the Appointed Attorneys by court and how often a Public Defender is appointed to a case assigned to an appointed attorney
- Felony Appointment rates are above 10% for most courts since the Dashboard was released while Misdemeanors saw a small uptick in usage overall but large growth in individual courts and judges

APPOINTMENT RATES

2021 Felony PDO Appointment Rates

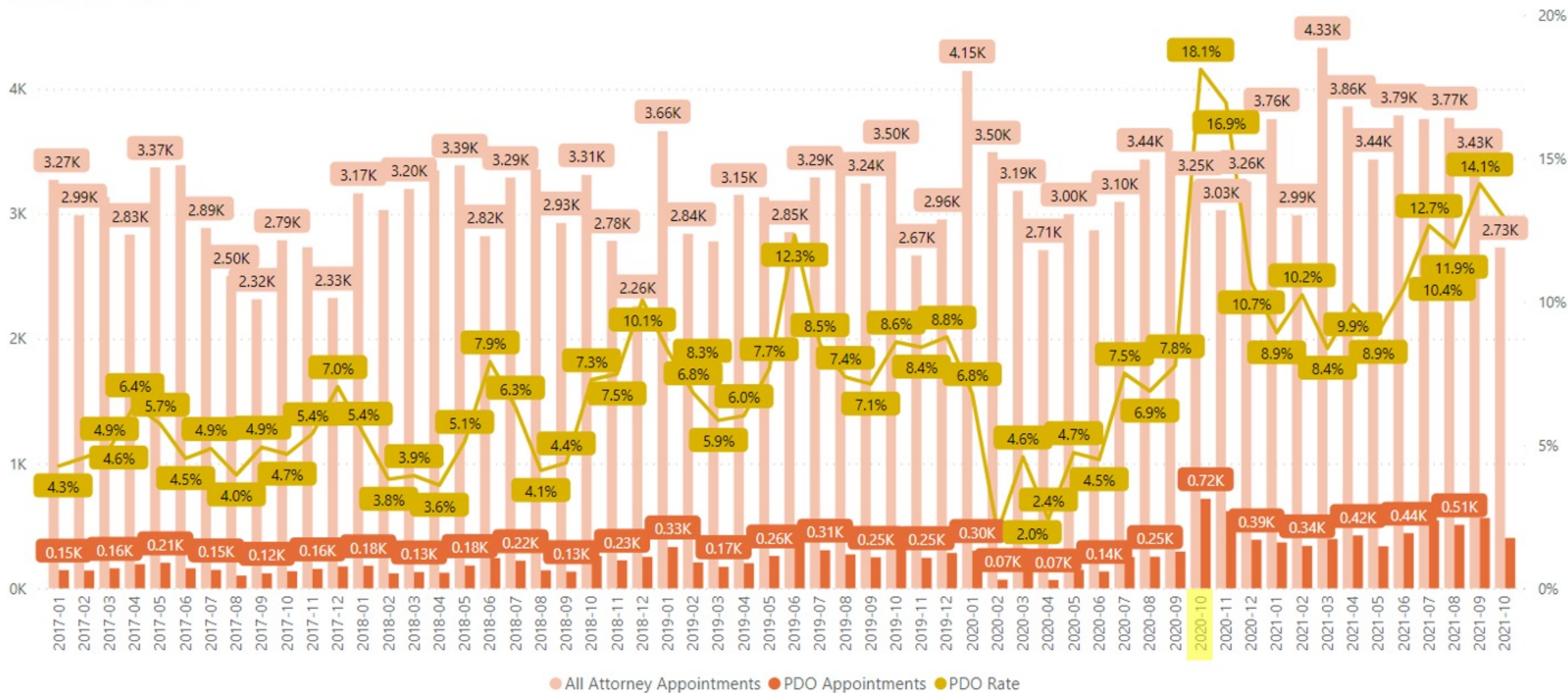
2021 Misdemeanor DO Appointment Rates

| Judge | Total Case Appointments | PDO Appointment Rate |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Judge Te'lva Johnson Bell | 1719 | 20.01 % |
| Judge Kelli Diane Johnson | 1498 | 19.76 % |
| Judge Charles Milton Silverman | 1633 | 19.60 % |
| Judge Hilary Diane Unger | 1749 | 18.41 % |
| Judge Frank Aguilar | 1442 | 18.31 % |
| Judge Kathryn Colleen Gaido | 1591 | 16.84 % |
| Judge Natalia Cornelio | 1763 | 16.73 % |
| Judge Abigail Anastasio | 1548 | 15.89 % |
| Judge Ana Maria Martinez | 2020 | 15.10 % |
| Judge Joshua Hill | 1563 | 14.97 % |
| Judge Danilo Lacayo | 1879 | 13.20 % |
| Judge James Gregory Glass | 1787 | 11.70 % |
| Judge Robert Clark Johnson Jr. | 1581 | 11.39 % |
| Judge Amy Dianne Martin | 1568 | 10.01 % |
| Judge Dasean A. Jones | 2066 | 9.39 % |
| Judge Brock Thomas | 2505 | 6.71 % |
| Judge Mark Ellis | 248 | 4.44 % |
| Judge Susan Baetz Brown | 157 | 3.82 % |
| Judge Brian E Warren | 1579 | 3.48 % |
| Judge Ramona Nicole Franklin | 1934 | 2.74 % |
| Judge Jason Luong | 1648 | 2.61 % |
| Judge Nikita V. Harmon | 1532 | 1.31 % |
| Judge Christopher Dean Morton | 1636 | 1.10 % |
| Judge Lori Chambers Gray | 1813 | 0.94 % |
| Judge Hazel Beatrice Jones | 1539 | 0.84 % |

- The Court Appointments Dashboard allows viewers to see the PDO Appointment rates by Judge compared to all cases where counsel was appointed
- The appointment count is by setting for a case where an attorney appointment is only counted once unless there are changes in counsel
- For Example, Judge John W Clinton Jr oversaw 135 case appointments for misdemeanors in 2021. Of those appointments, 25.19% were handled by the Public Defender's Office

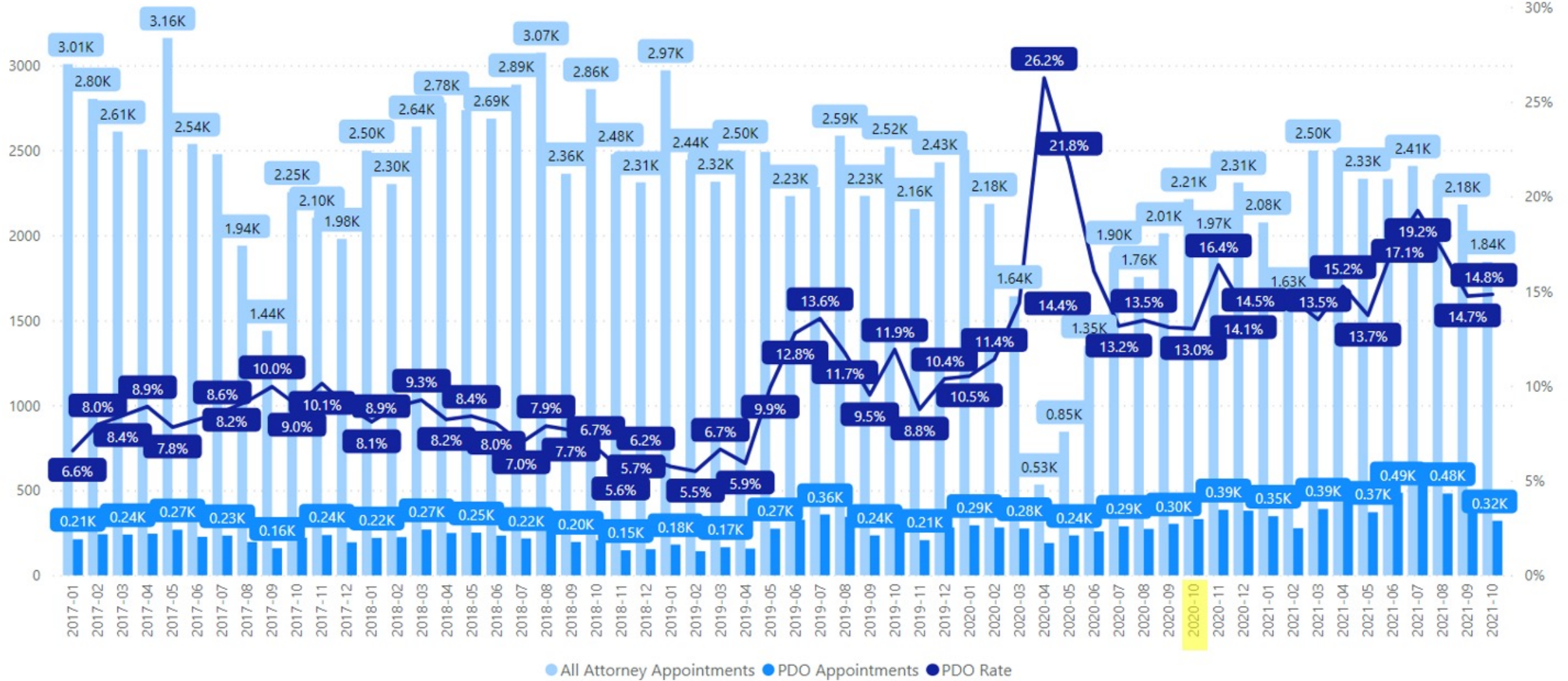
| Judge | Total Case Appointments | PDO Appointment Rate |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Judge John W Clinton Jr | 135 | 25.19 % |
| Judge David Fleischer | 1788 | 24.16 % |
| Judge Lisa G. Burkhalter | 36 | 22.22 % |
| Judge Andrew Alexander Wright | 1112 | 20.68 % |
| Judge A Vanessa Velasquez | 31 | 19.35 % |
| Judge Franklin Gordon Bynum | 1567 | 18.95 % |
| Judge David Singer | 1355 | 18.15 % |
| Judge Raul Rodriguez | 1181 | 17.87 % |
| Judge Tonya Deshea Jones | 1760 | 17.05 % |
| Judge Lee Wilson | 1866 | 15.76 % |
| Judge Kelley Lyn Andrews | 1364 | 15.62 % |
| Judge Sedrick Timothy Walker li | 1554 | 15.44 % |
| Judge Toria Janette Finch | 1637 | 15.27 % |
| Judge Genesis Elaine Draper | 1525 | 15.21 % |
| Judge Michael R. Fields | 1855 | 14.61 % |
| Judge Jo Robin Brown | 237 | 13.50 % |
| Judge James Harold Shoemake | 23 | 13.04 % |
| Judge Erica Rochi Hughes | 1559 | 13.02 % |
| Judge S. P. Hancock | 24 | 12.50 % |
| Judge Leslie Brock Yates | 105 | 12.38 % |
| Judge Alex Salgado | 1613 | 11.97 % |
| Judge Ronnisha Kewanna Bowman | 1645 | 9.30 % |
| Judge Belinda Hill | 186 | 9.14 % |
| Judge Sherman A Ross | 351 | 9.12 % |
| Judge Shannon Brichelle Baldwin | 1608 | 9.02 % |

Felony Appointments



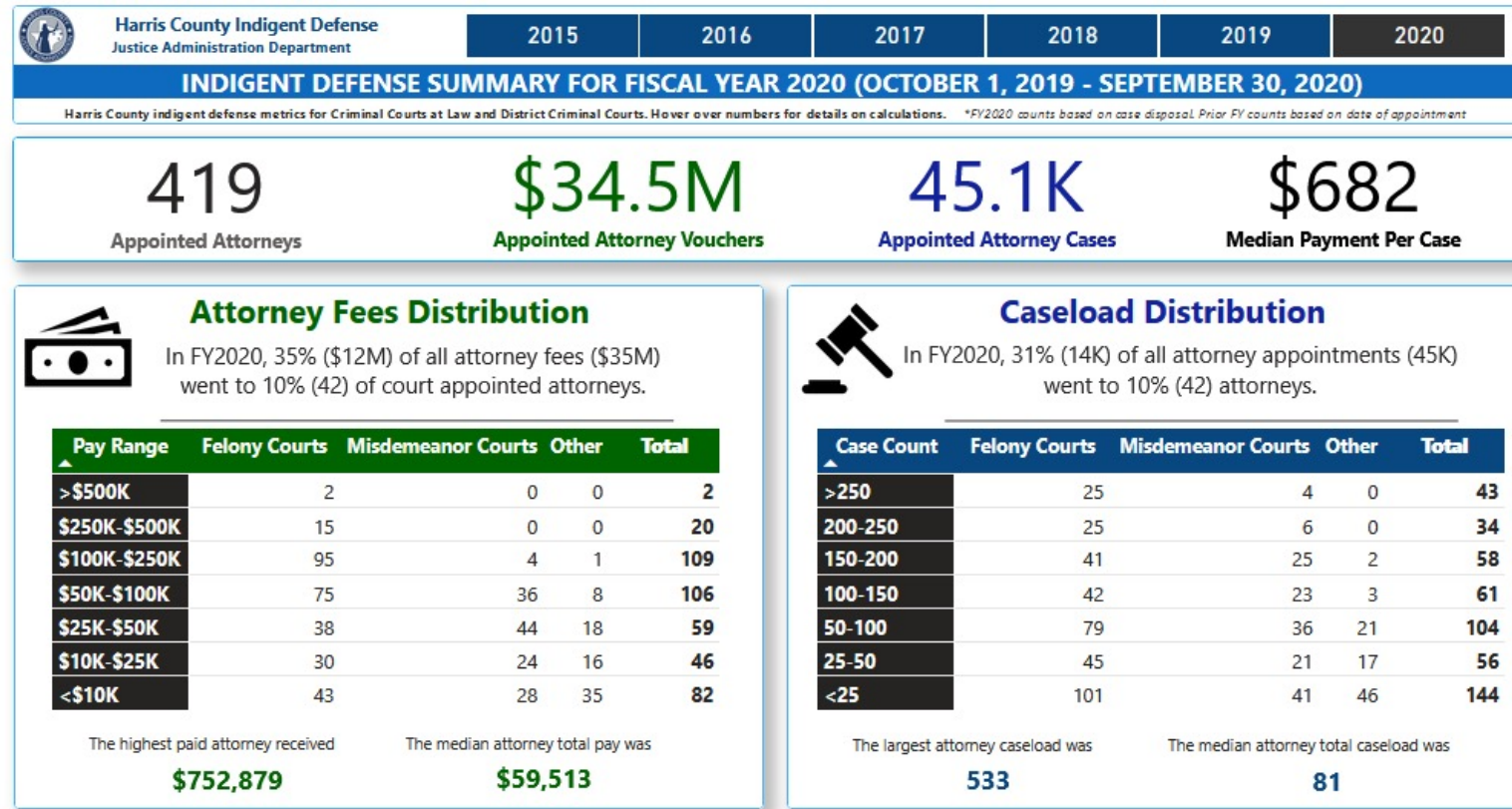
- The publication of the Dashboard (**October 2020**) coincided with a sharp increase of PDO Appointments

Misdemeanor Appointments



- The raise in PDO Appointments is due to a mix of total attorney appointments going up while the rate of PDO appointments going up

HARRIS COUNTY INDIGENT DEFENSE DASHBOARD



- The Harris County Indigent Defense Dashboard was published to the JAD Website in November 2020
- The dashboard provides a Fiscal Year view into appointed attorney payments and cases tied to the VIPS payment system
- 419 Attorneys are appointed to oversee the 45.1K cases via voucher system. This number represents 2020.
- Data collected and distributed with approval from the Texas Indigent Defense Council

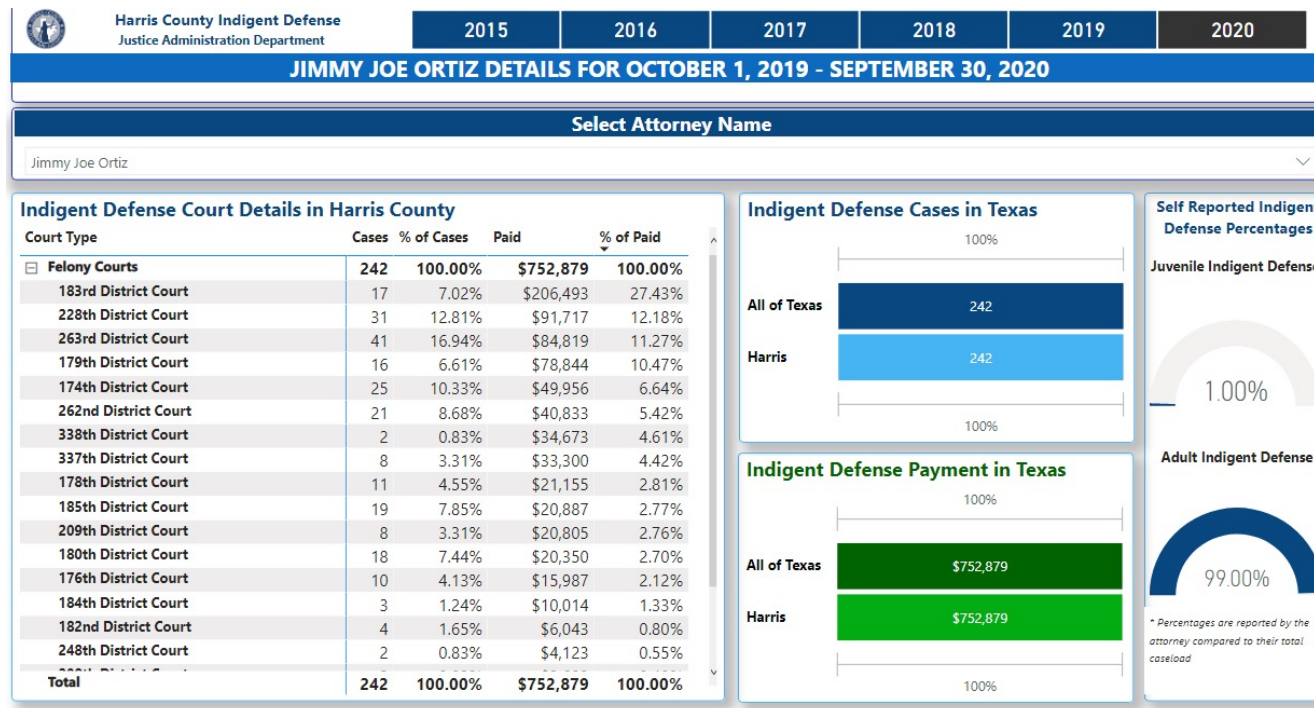
Fiscal Year 2020 Felony Indigent Defense Payments

| Attorney Details for Indigent Defense Cases | | | | |
|---|-------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Attorney Name | Cases | % of Cases | Paid | % of Paid |
| Ortiz, Jimmy Joe | 242 | 0.71% | \$752,879 | 2.71% |
| Godinich, Jerome | 311 | 0.92% | \$539,350 | 1.94% |
| Dupont, Thomas B. | 458 | 1.35% | \$480,002 | 1.73% |
| Nunnery, A. E. | 48 | 0.14% | \$439,935 | 1.58% |
| Gonzalez, Ricardo N. | 353 | 1.04% | \$425,675 | 1.53% |
| Andrews, Lisa | 140 | 0.41% | \$410,711 | 1.48% |
| Muldrow, Loretta Johnson | 22 | 0.06% | \$337,353 | 1.21% |
| Higginbotham, Cary Lynn | 148 | 0.44% | \$334,121 | 1.20% |
| Stafford, James T. | 5 | 0.01% | \$310,459 | 1.12% |
| Bourque, Gerald | 6 | 0.02% | \$296,032 | 1.06% |
| Easterling, Danny Karl | 224 | 0.66% | \$293,785 | 1.06% |
| Ortiz, Jeanie | 400 | 1.18% | \$292,411 | 1.05% |
| Ruzzo, Patrick | 324 | 0.96% | \$287,385 | 1.03% |
| Merchant, Feroz Farook | 230 | 0.68% | \$275,771 | 0.99% |
| Savoy, Bryan K. | 168 | 0.50% | \$263,596 | 0.95% |
| Madrid, Mario | 142 | 0.42% | \$259,379 | 0.93% |
| Garza, David Lawrence | 244 | 0.72% | \$257,240 | 0.93% |
| Cornelius, R. P. | 142 | 0.42% | \$249,457 | 0.90% |
| Shannon, Hattie Sewell | 138 | 0.41% | \$246,945 | 0.89% |
| Desai, Riddhi | 289 | 0.85% | \$240,385 | 0.86% |
| Nielsen, Hans T. | 264 | 0.78% | \$233,251 | 0.84% |

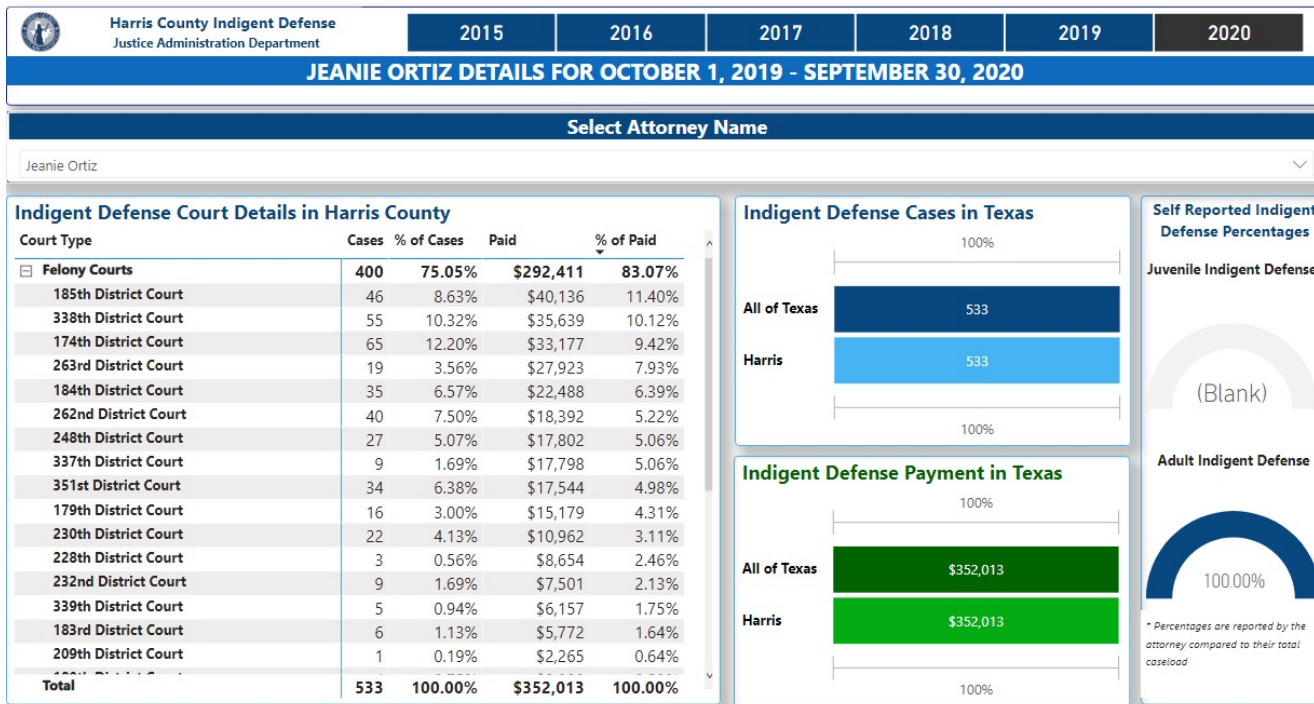
Fiscal Year 2020 Misdemeanor Indigent Defense Payments

| Attorney Details for Indigent Defense Cases | | | | |
|---|-------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Attorney Name | Cases | % of Cases | Paid | % of Paid |
| Morales, Nora | 171 | 1.29% | \$146,978 | 2.94% |
| Ionescu, Andreea | 191 | 1.44% | \$122,163 | 2.45% |
| Saldana, Aaron | 225 | 1.69% | \$105,208 | 2.11% |
| Gulamali, Shreya | 160 | 1.20% | \$102,235 | 2.05% |
| Casanova, Edward | 140 | 1.05% | \$88,277 | 1.77% |
| Izaguirre, Abel | 248 | 1.87% | \$83,194 | 1.67% |
| Moore, Michael Hardie | 174 | 1.31% | \$79,933 | 1.60% |
| Walker, Mekisha | 166 | 1.25% | \$79,901 | 1.60% |
| Brown, Cheryl Shooks | 329 | 2.48% | \$79,385 | 1.59% |
| Benavides, Kelly Denise | 160 | 1.20% | \$79,149 | 1.58% |
| Kemp, Japaula | 146 | 1.10% | \$78,733 | 1.58% |
| Press, Dionne Susan | 186 | 1.40% | \$77,761 | 1.56% |
| Vela, Jose | 97 | 0.73% | \$74,527 | 1.49% |
| Davis, John Shannon | 180 | 1.35% | \$74,373 | 1.49% |
| Arredondo, Ernesto | 214 | 1.61% | \$72,338 | 1.45% |
| Muniz, Marjorie Ann | 94 | 0.71% | \$71,925 | 1.44% |
| Suarez, Richard A. | 183 | 1.38% | \$69,000 | 1.38% |
| Munier, Nathaniel | 165 | 1.24% | \$68,168 | 1.37% |
| Sapien, Marco | 101 | 0.76% | \$67,450 | 1.35% |
| Limitone, Anthony V. | 92 | 0.69% | \$66,650 | 1.33% |
| Rafiee, Paria | 262 | 1.97% | \$64,113 | 1.28% |

- The Harris County Indigent Defense Dashboard allows the user to see the number of cases an attorney was appointed to as well as how much that attorney was paid.
- For example, Attorney Jimmy Joe Ortiz oversaw 0.71% of the Felony Indigent Defense Cases in Fiscal Year 2020 and received 2.71% of the payments.



- The user also can also see the case counts and payments received from individual courts during a fiscal year
- Also, if that attorney was an appointed attorney in other counties outside of Harris county, the information will appear beside the data table
- Looking at the total payments and cases alongside the attorney details provides insights into the Harris County Indigent Defense system



CONTACT

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THE JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
YOUR PARTNERSHIP IS CRITICAL AND APPRECIATED.

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